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MEMOIRS
CONCERNING
HERCULANEUM,
THE
SUBTERRANEAN CITY,
Lately discovered at the
Foot of Mount *Vesuvius*,
GIVING
A particular Account of the most remarkable BUILDINGS, STATUES, PAINTINGS, MEDALS, and other Curiosities found there to the present Time.

Translated from the *Italian* of a Memorial drawn up by the Secretary of the Marquis *d'Hospital* Ambassador from *France* to the Court of his *Sicilian* Majesty at *Naples*.

And illustrated with Notes,

By *WILLIAM FORDYCE*, M. A.

To which are added

An Extract from *Xiphilinus*'s Epitome of *Dion* and *Pliny* the younger's Two Letters, giving an Account of the Overthrow of this City, and the Eruption of *Vesuvius* that occasioned it.

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THE Translator's Preface TO THE READER.

AS I had an Opportunity last Winter, when in *Italy*, of viewing the SUBTERRANEAN CITY, and examining the Curiosities they had found there, I could not help wishing, that somebody who had been on the Spot for some time, and who had had Access to know all the Progress they had made, might draw up a Memorial of their Observations. Altho' I had seen *Marchese Venuti*'s Account of the first Discoveries of the antient City of *Heraclea*, yet I imagined that its being so mixed with Fable, and Criticisms on Inscriptions, &c. would prevent its pleasing the Generality of Readers, and the more so, as he had not been upon the Spot for the last ten Years,

and his Deſcription of conſequence defective in a Number of Particulurs, which would be extremely agreeable to the Reader; I afterwards, by accident, met with the Memoirs which I have attempted to tranſlate, and which, I don't doubt, will give the Reader the ſame Pleaſure they did me. As it was drawn up by the Secretary of the Marquis *D'Hoſpital*, Ambaſſador from the Court of *France* to his *Sicilian* Majeſty, who undoubtedly had ſufficient Opportunities of examining in this Affair particularly, I am perſuaded it will prove ſatisfactory. To render it the more agreeable, I have added ſuch Notes as are requiſite to illuſtrate the Subject.

N. B. As *Dion* and *Pliny* the younger have both mentioned the Overthrow of theſe two Cities, I thought it would be agreeable to the Reader to give a Tranſlation of theſe Paſſages. I find theſe Letters of *Pliny*'s ſo well tranſlated in the *Engliſh* Edition of theſe Letters, publiſhed by *R. Dodſley*, that I have given them juſt as I found them there.

MEMOIRS

CONCERNING

HERCULANEUM.

HIS Highneſs the Prince of *Elbeuf* having gone to *Naples*, in the Year 1706, and married in 1713, the Daughter of the Duke of *Salſa*, he gave orders to build a Country-houſe at ſome Miles diſtance from that City, in a Place called *Granatiello*, near *Portici*: His Workmen digging in ſearch of Water cut their Way into a Vault, under which they found ſome Statues, which he ordered to be taken up, and with great Advantage continued his Reſearches, without having any Notice taken of it at firſt by the Fiſcal. The Noiſe, how-

[a] In 1689, as ſome Workmen were digging in the Side of Mount *Veſuvius*, at about a Mile's diſtance from the Sea, they found Strata of horizontal Earth, like ſo many Pavements laid on purpoſe, and ſome Inſcriptions ſhewing that in that Place there had been the *Villa Pompeja*; but digging deeper their Search was ſtopt by Water, which they found in great abundance. See *Iſtoria Univerſal. di M. Bianchini Romæ* 1699, p. 246 & *ivi* 1748.

ever, which these Searches soon occasioned, opened the Eyes of the Government at last, who did not proceed therein, but shut up the Place for the present.

This Discovery was too fresh to be forgotten, when his *Sicilian* Majesty chose *Portici* for a Country Seat. It was the first Care of this Prince to give Orders to digg 80 Feet deep, when they found the Pavement of an ancient City situated under *Portici* and *Resina*, neighbouring Villages about six Miles distant from *Naples*, between Mount *Vesuvius* and the Sea-shore.

SECTION I.

Different Opinions concerning the Subterranean City.

UPON this Discovery, there was a variety of Opinions among the Learned about the ancient Name of this City. Some would have it to be *Pompeja*; others, upon the Credit of *Camillo Pellegrino* [b], maintained that it was *Retina*, of which *Pliny* [c] makes mention in a Letter he wrote to *Cornelius Tacitus*, giving him an Account of all the Circumstances attending his Uncle's Death. This last Opinion appears the more plausible, as this City stands in the same Situation which

[b] *Camillo Pellegrino's Apparato alle Antiquita di Capua Discorso secund.* Sect. xxiii. [c] *Plin.* lib. 6. Epist. 16.

Pliny

Pliny the younger assigns to *Retina* [d], and as it extends under the Village now called *Resina*, which in one Letter only varies from *Retina*; and it will hardly be wondered at, that so small a Change as that of one Letter, should happen in the Name of a Place during the Course of almost eighteen Centuries.

But *Pellegrino*, and the Writers who follow him, have not taken Notice that *Pliny* does not call *Retina* a City (*Civitas*, *Urbs*, or *Oppidum*, but only a Country Seat (*Villa*) which in the *Latin Idiom* never signifies a City: As then this Discovery is of a City, we conclude that this was not *Retina*, which is never placed by the Ancients among the Cities situated on the Coast of *Naples*: *Pliny* explains himself thus [e], 'On this Shore lie 'Naples and *Herculaneum*, which is but a 'little Way distant from *Pompeja*, at the 'Foot of *Vesuvius*, and on the Banks of 'Sarno, &c.' *Strabo* places *Herculaneum* quite adjoining to *Naples*. *Dionys. Halicarnass.* [f] says, that this City was between *Naples* and *Pompeja*. *Seneca* [g] gives it the same Situation, in a Letter he writes to his Friend *Lucilius*, about the Earthquake which threw down *Pompeja*, under the Consulship of *Memmius Regulus* and *Virginius Rufus*. The Cities

[d] *Nam Villa ea subjacebat*, Plin. lib. 6. Epist. 23.
[e] *Plin.* lib. 3. cap. v. [f] *Dionys. Halicarn.* lib. 1.
[g] *Seneca de Quæst. Nat.* l. vi.

which are on this Sea-Coaſt, ſays *Florus* [h], are *Formiæ*, *Cuma*, *Puzzuoli*, *Naples*, *Herculaneum* and *Pompeja*. *Ovid* [i] conducting *Æneas* from *Sicily*, makes him coaſt along the Iſland of *Capræa*, the Promontory of *Minerva*, *Soriento*, *Stabia*, *Herculaneum* and *Naples*. *Columella* [k] ſays, that the Marſhes of *Pompeja* are in the Neighbourhood of the Salt-Pits of *Herculaneum*. In ſhort, none of theſe Author's reckon *Retina* among the Cities which were in the Gulph of *Naples*, and all agree in placing *Herculaneum* between *Naples* and *Pompeja*: And this new diſcovered City is ſituated preciſely between theſe two. We cannot then doubt but that this City is *Herculaneum*, as it is at an equal Diſtance from *Naples* and the Mouth of the *Sarno*, where the Ruins of *Pompeja* are.

Notwithſtanding, however, the Silence of ancient Hiſtorians and Geographers about *Retina*, one may preſume that it was a conſiderable Place, as there were Soldiers ſtationed there who ſerved in the Fleet, as *Pliny* the younger [l] teſtifies, adding, that *Retina* was at the Foot of *Veſuvius*, and that no Place was more expoſed to the Burnings of this Vulcano.

[h] *Flor.* lib. 1. Cap. xvi. [i] *Ovid. Metamorph.* xv. v. 709, *& ſequent.* [k] *Columell. de Cultu Hortor.* lib. x. v. 135. [l] *Retina Caſſiarii imminenti periculo exterriti—Aſcendit ipſe non Retinæ modo, &c.* Plin. lib. 6. Epiſt. 16.

Herculaneum

Herculaneum was in the ſame Condition, if one may judge from the Situation the Antients have given it, and which ſo perfectly agrees with this ſubterranean City. But how is it poſſible that *Herculaneum* and *Retina* ſhould poſſeſs the ſame Ground? Does it not ſeem that the very ſame Circumſtances applied to two different Objects imply a Contradiction? But this vaniſhes if we reflect on what *Dion. Halicarn.*[m] ſays, concerning the firſt Foundation of *Herculaneum*, 'The Affairs of *Italy* 'being ſettled to *Hercules*'s Satisfaction, and 'his Naval Force being returned from *Spain* 'in a good Condition, he offered up in Sa-'crifice to the Gods, the tenth Part of his 'Effects, and in the ſame Place where he 'moored his Fleet, *He built a City of his* 'own Name, inhabited at preſent by the *Ro-*'*mans*, between *Pompeja* and *Naples*, with 'ſecure Harbours in all Weathers.'—It is evident then that *Hercules*'s Fleet was there at Anchor. Is it not therefore natural to think that the Place where they were, was then called *Retina*, and that ſtill after the Foundation by *Hercules*, the Name of *Retina* was retained in the Maritime Part of this City, at whoſe Extremities were ſituated theſe Ports, as *Strabo* well obſerves[n]? If there are at preſent no Veſtiges of theſe, it is owing to their having

[m] *Dionyſ. Halicarn.* lib. x. [n] *Strabo*, lib. v.

been

been filled up at the ſame time that *Herculaneum* was buried under the Aſhes.

The Caſe was probably the ſame with the *Sarno* [o], which paſſed by the Walls of this City, and which by giving the Inhabitants an eaſy way of tranſporting their Merchandize by Water, formed the Magazines of *Nola* [p], *Nocera*, and *Acerra*.

The Bed of this River muſt probably have been filled in the ſame manner, by changing the Level of the Ground, and forcing the River to alter its Courſe. But tho' theſe Proofs were not ſufficient to demonſtrate that this lately diſcovered City is truly the old *Herculaneum*, all theſe Doubts would vaniſh upon ſeeing the Inſcriptions which are daily found, and ſome of which ſhall be inſerted in this Account.

SECTION II.

Of the ancient City of Herculaneum.

IF we form our Calculation upon what *Dionyſ. Halicarnaſſ.* relates of the founding of *Herculaneum*, it is not difficult to eſtabliſh its Date: He, as it has been ſeen, fixes it to the time that *Hercules* diſembark'd in *Italy*, after his Expedition to *Spain*, viz.

[o] *Plin.* lib. iii. Cap. v. [p] *Strabo*, lib. v.

ſixty Years before the War of *Troy*, and conſequently 1342, before the Chriſtian Æra.

This City inhabited ſucceſſively by the [q] *Oſci* [r], *Tuſcans*, *Pelagi*, *Samnites* and *Romans*, was conſiderably damaged [s] under the Empire of *Nero*, by the ſame Earthquake that deſtroyed *Pompeja*, the 5th of *February*, in the ſixty-third Year of Chriſt; and its Ruin was compleated by the Eruption of *Veſuvius*, which happened in the 1ſt Year of *Titus*'s Reign, according to *Euſebius*, *Zonara* and *Agricola*, or in the 3d Year according to *Georgius Cedrenus*, Cardinal *Baronius*, and many others; but the Chronology of the 1ſt ought to be preferred.

In fact we ſee in *Suetonius*, that *Titus* ſhewed on this Occaſion not only the Tenderneſs of a good Father by the Supplies he gave,

[q] *Strabo*, lib. v. [r] *Capuans.* [s] Pompejos celebrem Campaniæ Urbem in quam ab altera parte Surrentinum Stabianumque Littus, ab altera Herculanenſe conveniunt, mareque ex aperto conductum amæno Sinu cingit, decediſſe terræ motu, vexatis quæcumque adjacebant Regionibus, Lucili Virorum optime, audivimus, & quidem diebus hibernis quos vacare a tali periculo majores noſtri ſolebant permittere, nonis Februariis fuit motus, Regulo & Virginio Conſulibus qui Campaniam nunquam ſecuram ejus mali indemnem tamen & toties defunctam metû, magna ſtrage vaſtavit, nam & Herculanenſis oppidi pars ruit, dubieque ſtant etiam quæ relicta ſunt, *&c. Queſtion. lib.* 6. *Cap.* 1.

but

but the Fore-ſight too of a wiſe Emperor, in the Meaſures he took, having aſſigned the Effects of all thoſe Inhabitans who died without Heirs for the Re-eſtabliſhment of this deſolated City.

Dion [t] and *Zonara* [u] add, that in the Year in which this terrible Accident happened, *Titus* ſent Colonies, gave generous Donations, came himſelf into *Campania*, examined carefully with his own Eyes, the Loſſes which the People of this Province had ſuffered, gave the *Neapolitans* magnificent Spectacles to wear off their Grief, and erected again at his own Expence their Gymnaſium, which had been thrown down by theſe continual Earthquakes, which had attended the Eruptions, and which according to the Teſtimony of *Pliny* the younger [w], 'were ſo violent that 'the Houſes being ſhaken to the very Foun-'dations, quivered and ſeemed inceſſantly as 'if they were ſhifting from their Place and 'returning again immediately, ſo as to threaten 'inevitable Ruin.'

Titus's Journey into *Campania* is atteſted by too many Authors to be called in Queſtion, and with reſpect to the rebuilding of the Gymnaſium of *Naples* by this Emperor, there is an excellent Proof of it in the *Greek* and

[t] *Dion.* lib. xvi. *Tito*, lib. 11.

[u] *Zon. Vit.* Imp. v. *Quella di*

[w] *Plin.* lib. 6. Epiſt. 16 and 20.

Latin

Latin Inſcriptions [x], in which the times of the Ruin, and Re-eſtabliſhment of this Edifice are diſtinctly marked out. How could it be poſſible that *Titus* ſhould have given ſo many Orders, made ſuch Diſpoſitions, and endured ſuch Fatigues, if the Eruption had happened the laſt Year of his Reign? He could ſcarce have had time to think of it as it was not more than 18 Days from the Burning of *Veſuvio*, which began [y] the 24th of *Auguſt*, and the Death of this Emperor, which happened the 13th of *September*. But every difficulty is removed if we ſtand to what *George Agricola* ſays [z]. He fixes the time of the Eruption in the ſeventh Conſulate of *Titus*,

[x] ΤΙΤΟΣ ΚΑΙΣΑΡ
ΟΥΕΣΠΑΣΙΑΝΟΣ ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ
.. ΕΚΗΣ. ΕΞΟΥΣΙΑΣ. ΤΟ. Ī
.. ΟΣΗΠΑΤΟΣ. ΤΟ Η̄ ΤΕΙΜΗΤΗΣ
αταν ΟΘΕΥΗΣΑΣΤΟ. Γ̄. ΓΥΜΝΑΣΙΑΡΧΗΣΑΣ.
ΣΥΜΠΕΣΟΝΙΑ. ΑΠΟΚΑΤΕΣΤΗΣΕΝ.

NI. F. VESPASIANUS AUG.
COS V̄ĪĪ CENSOR P. P.
terræmo TIBUS CONLAPSA. RESTITUIT.

This Inſcription is engraved on a large Piece of Marble, which is ſtill to be ſeen at *Naples*, fixed in a Wall near the Fountain of the Anunciada. As the Marble is not entire, the Inſcription is imperfect in ſome Places. The Antiquaries who choſe to fill up the Parts which were wanting, have ſupplied theſe Letters which you ſee above in ſmall Characters.

[y] *Nono Cal. Septembris horâ diei fere ſeptimâ, &c.* Plin. lib. 6. Epiſt. 16.

[z] *Georg. Agricola, de Natura eorum quæ affluunt in terra* lib. 5.

which is preciſely the 1ſt Year of his Reign, an Epocha eſtabliſhed by *Euſebius* and *Zonara*, and which appears ſo much the more certain as it agrees with all the Hiſtorical Facts; ſince thus we can eaſily conceive that *Titus* might have time to take, in the following Years, all the Meaſures neceſſary to repair the Diſaſters of *Campania*, as *Sueton* and *Dion* ſay he did, and to rebuild the Gymnaſium of *Naples*, as has been ſeen in the above-mentioned Inſcription. We may likewiſe ſee that he did this in his eighth Conſulate, which falls in exactly with the 2d Year of his Empire. In this manner it is paſt all doubt that the Burning of *Veſuvius* happened in the 1ſt Year of *Titus*, the 24th of *Auguſt*, in the 79th Year of the Chriſtian Æra. Now admitting that the Siege of *Troy* was 60 Years later than the founding of *Herculaneum*, this City muſt have ſtood 1420 Years.

SECTION III.

Of the Lava and Inundations which ſometimes accompany the Burning of Veſuvius.

THE Matter under which this City lies buried, is not all of one ſort; in ſome Places it is the Lava of *Veſuvius*, in others a kind of Mortar or very hard Cement.

The *Neapolitans* give the Name of Lava to theſe Rivers of Sulphur, of Rocks and Bitu-

men, mixed together, which *Veſuvius* vomits forth in its Fury. Theſe burning Materials don't run with the Impetuoſity of a Torrent, but form a thick and viſcous Matter, which like Paſte or melted Glaſs, flows ſlowly and preſerves its Heat a great while, till it reaches the Sea, where this Matter has gradually formed Promontories in different Places: As the Lava loſes its Heat, it ſtops and becomes as hard a Maſs as Marble itſelf, takes the ſame Figure, and ſerves for the ſame Purpoſes.

One may eaſily conceive how, while this Matter is liquid, it inſinuates itſelf into all the void Spaces it meets with in its Paſſage, and therefore it is not ſtrange that thoſe Places through which it directs its Courſe in *Herculaneum*, are as well filled up as if it had been done with melted Lead: Such is one part of the Theatre and many of the neighbouring Buildings, which has undoubtedly been the reaſon that they have found Pieces of Statues of Bronze, while what is wanting in them have probably been melted by the Heat of the Lava.

Since that Eruption which buried *Herculaneum*, they reckon twenty-ſix others, the Lava of which too have paſſed over this ruin'd City, and is probably the reaſon that there is a Vault or Body of theſe Materials to the Thickneſs of eighty Feet, between this City and the Pavement of *Portici*.

It ſeems nevertheleſs that theſe Rivers of Fire formerly paſſed over, only the leſſer Part of the City, but that the reſt was buried under a kind of Mortar or hard Cement compoſed of Earth and of the Aſhes of *Veſuvius*, bound together by Water: This Cement has not only filled the Streets, the Piazzas and other open Places, but has penetrated into all the Edifices without damaging them, and has filled up every empty Space. How can one explain this Singularity without ſuppoſing that *Veſuvius* had begun to throw out ſuch Quantities of Aſhes as to exceed in height the higheſt Edifices, and that afterwards the Waters of the Sea having penetrated into the Furnaces of this Vulcano had again been thrown out of its Mouth; that theſe Torrents had drawn the Aſhes within, into the Buildings where they had been ſtopped by the different Obſtacles which had preſented themſelves, were moulded by their own Weight, which was great, and conſtantly encreaſed by the freſh Supplies of the other Aſhes which keep continually pouring down from the Mountain.

If we choſe to follow the Opinion of the Academy of *Naples*, we ſhould attribute theſe Effects to the great Rains which fall ſoon after theſe Eruptions; but to produce this Effect, we muſt ſuppoſe an incredible Quantity of Water would be wanted, ſo that the firſt

Suppoſition

Suppoſition will be attended with leſs Inconveniency.

But beſides it is founded on the Teſtimony of many Authors [a], who aſſure us, that in ſome Eruptions *Veſuvius* has thrown out as much Water as Fire, and among others in that Eruption of 1631, that the Port of *Naples* on the 10th of *December* [b] turned and continued dry for ſome ſhort ſpace of time, and that all kinds of Shell Fiſh were mixed with the Lava which had run down from the Mountain.

If this laſt Circumſtance be true, it is an undoubted Proof that the Water of the Sea had penetrated into the Vulcano, and had come out at its Mouth: The Inſcription made at that time at the Gate of *Portici* ſeems to ſay ſo [c], and another at the *Torre di Græ-*

[a] *Celano*, Tom. IV. p. 4. [b] *Dominico Antonio Penino*, Part. XI. S. xiii. [c] Poſteri Poſteri Veſtra res agitur.—Dies face præfert Diei, Nudius perendino. Advertite! Vicies ab fatu Solis, ni fabulatur Hiſtoria arſit Veſuvius, immani ſemper clade hæſitantium: ne poſt hæc incertos occupet, moneo. Uterum gerit mons hic bitumine, Alumine, Ferro, Sulphure, auro, argento, Nitro, *Aquarum fontibus* gravem. Serius, ocius igneſcit, *Pelagoque Influente*, pariet; ſed ante parturit concutitur, concutitque ſolum, fumigat, coruſcat, flammigerat, quatit aerem, horrendum immugit, boat, tonat, arcet finibus Accolas. Emigrandum licet; jamjam enititur, erumpit. *Mixtum Igne lacum evomit* præcipiti ruit ille lapſu fugamque prævertit. Si corripit actum eſt, periiſti Anno Salut. M. D. C. XXXI. Kal. Januarii, &c.

This Inſcription is on the Street of *Portici*.

co [d],

co [d], ſtrengthens this Conjecture. *Domenico Antonio Penino* in his Deſcription [e] of the Gulph of *Naples*, ſpeaking of the Eruption of 1698, aſſures us that the Sea withdrew 12 Paces all of a ſudden, and its Waters iſſued forth at the ſame time from the Vulcano, ſo that they found a Quantity of different kinds of Shell Fiſh calcined, which had the Smell of Sulphur. *Pliny* the younger, who was an Eye-Witneſs to the Eruption in which his Uncle periſhed at the ſame time that *Herculaneum* was deſtroyed, aſſerts poſitively that the Sea ſeemed to be ingulphed and driven back by the Shocks of the Earth.

[d] Viam a Neapoli ad Rhegium perpetuis ante latrociniis infamem, & conflagrati Veſuvii ſaxis impeditam, purgato inſidiis loco, exæquata Planitie, latam, rectamque direxit ære provinciali Perafanus Ribera Alcalanorum Dux, Prorex, A. M. D. LXIII At O! VIII, & LX. Poſt anno Kal. Jan. Philippo IV. regnante fumo, flammis & Boatu concuſſus cinere, Eruptione horrificus, ferus ſi unquam Veſevus nec nomen nec faſces tanti Viri extimuit, quippe ex ardeſcente cæſis ſpecubus, igne, ignitus, furens, irrugiens exitium eructans coercitus aer, Diſcerpto violenter montis cacumine, immani hiatu erupit poſtridie: ejaculans trans Helleſpontum cinerem; *pone trahens ad explendum vicem* Pelagus, immite pelagus, fluvios ſulphureos, flammatum Bitumen, fletus alumine cavus Informem cujuslibet metalli rudus, *mixtum aquarum fluminibus ignem* ferreumque undante fumo Cinere ſeſeque funeſtam Colluviem. Jugo montis exonerans Pompejos, *Herculanum* Octavianum præſtrictis Reſina & Porticu Silvaſque, Villaſque, Ædeſque momento ſtravit, uſſit, dirupit; luctuoſam præ ſe prædam agens Vaſtumque Triumphum, &c. [e] Parte XI. S. XIII.

But

But however this may be, it is a certain Fact that every Part is full in *Herculaneum:* To enter into the Streets or Houſes you muſt dig by breaking with the Point of a Hammer the Lava or Cement which fills and envelops every Part. If it was not for this, the greateſt part of the Buildings would fall, as they hang much to one Side. Now it is remarkable that their Inclination is every where towards the Sea Side, and thence natural to ſuppoſe that it was occaſioned by the Weight of the Water, which would have entirely ruined and deſtroyed *Herculaneum*, if it had not been filled and formed ſo as that every Part reciprocally ſupported and ſuſtained each other; and as this City on the other Side was entirely buried under the Aſhes, there was nothing preſented but an even Surface upon which the Torrents glided along without reſiſtance and of conſequence eaſily [f].

[f] Though we can eaſily conceive by our Author's Account of the Matter, how the Lava ſupported the Walls of the Houſes when forced off their Perpendicular, yet we cannot ſo eaſily comprehend how the Aſhes could do that, unleſs they iſſued from the Mountain mixed with a ſufficient Proportion of Water to form a Paſte of a proper Thickneſs and Conſiſtance.

SECTION IV.

Of the Theatre of Herculaneum.

HIS *Sicilian* Majeſty had no ſooner given Orders to ſet about digging under *Portici* and *Reſina*, than they found ſome Statues of the Family of the *Balbi*, and ſome Paintings in Freſco.

Good fortune ſoon conducted the Workmen into a Theatre[g]. which appeared to be of *Greek* Architecture, as far as we may judge from *Vitruvius*; and in reality the 21 Steps or Seats are not ſeparated by Sevens as among the *Romans* by a ſmall Plain, they likewiſe touch and follow each other, and probably if they would dig among the 7 little Stairs which divide equally the Rows of Seats, they would find Earthen or Braſs Veſſels,

[g] It is a difficult thing to know when the antient Authors ſpeak of a Theatre and Amphitheatre, as theſe Appellations are uſed indifferently. The *Græcians* hardly uſe this Word, if we except *Herodian*. The Theatres of *Cajus*, *Scribonius* and *Curio*, were Amphitheatres (*Cicer.* l. 8. Ep. 3. *Theatrum Curionis. Plin.* l. 36. Cap. 13.) Thus *Spartianus* ſays, that the Theatre which was erected by *Trajan*'s Order in the *Campus Martius*, was deſtroyed, which *Pauſanius* ſays was an Amphitheatre; and *Dion* deſcribes likewiſe the Amphitheatre of *Julius Cæſar*, but will not call it by that Name. See *Marcheſe Venuti*'s Deſcription of the firſt Diſcoveries of *Heraclea*, P. 2. Ch. 3.

which

which the *Greeks* made uſe of to encreaſe their Actors Voices [h]

The Theatre is 290 Feet in Circumference on the Outſide, 230 on the Inſide to the Scenes, 160 outward Breadth, and 130 inward. The Place of the Scene or Pulpitum is about 72 Feet large, and only about 30 Feet high.

Like all theſe of Antiquity, this Theatre is of the Shape of a Horſe-Shoe, or rather deſcribes a Semicircle, in the Inſide of which are 21 Rows of Seats, which go from the ſame Center, and whoſe Diameters become larger in Proportion as theſe riſe upwards. This Semicircle is terminated in a long Square, divided into three Parts: That of the Middle has all the Breadth which reaches from the third Degree downwards to that which is oppoſite on the other Side, and has at bottom a Facade of the *Doric* Order, in which are three Outlets. There was the Pulpit or fore-part of the Stage where the Actors repreſented the Piece. Their Proſcenium behind the Facade, and the other two Parts of the long Square occupied the Space from the third Degree to the greateſt Breadth of the Flanks of the Theatre [i].

That

[h] Thoſe who have an Opportunity of being at *Rome*, may ſee how they fitted up theſe Pots to encreaſe the Sound; in the Circus of *Caracalla* beyond St. *Sebaſtian*'s at *Rome*. [i] A Figure is wanting here to render this Deſcription more intelligible, but it may eaſily be conceived,

That Space which is betwixt the Pulpit and the Seats was the Orcheſtra [k], where there is ſtill, as likewiſe under the Stage, a Quantity of Wood reduced to Charcoal, which is another Proof that this Theatre was built by the *Græcians*, becauſe among the *Romans* the Orcheſtra being deſtined for the Senators and Veſtal Virgins, it was entirely uſeleſs to make that of Wood which the *Athenians* deſigned only for the Convenience of the Dancers.

All the upper Part of the Stage was likewiſe adorned with a great many Works of Wood, which altho' ſomewhat burnt ſtill preſerve their Shape ſo much, that if one may conjecture, the Theatre had Machines which were equally common among the *Greeks* and *Romans*. The firſt had Flights and Changes of Decorations as ours, and we know that

of by the Figure of one which *Palladio* executed the Model of in a very ingenious Manner at *Vicenza*.

[k] Seigneur *Maffei* ſays, that the Orcheſtra was that Part which we call the Platea. As among the *Græcians* the Orcheſtra or Platea was uſed ſometimes for Shows and at other times for Dancing; thoſe who ſat on the Benches that were neareſt the Platea were ſaid to ſit on the Orcheſtra, and this might be the Caſe among the *Romans* in their Amphitheatres, whoſe Platea, tho' it ſerved for cruel Exerciſes, retained the ancient Name of Orcheſtra, whence theſe who ſat in the Orcheſtra of the Amphitheatres and Theatres, were to be underſtood to ſit in the Rows next the Platea, and the ſame Explanation may be applied to the Linea Dives of *Martial*. See *Marcheſe Venuti*'s Deſcription of theſe Diſcoveries.

among

among the laſt, an Actor who played the Part of *Icarus* did it ſo naturally as to fall at the Feet of *Nero* and beſprinkle him with Blood.

There were three Galleries raiſed the one above the other, not quite perpendicularly, but ſo that the lower Wall reſting on the Steps, ſerved as a Portico by which they entered into the Theatre and ſeated themſelves. The upper Corridore or Gallery anſwered to the ſeven Steps or Seats higher up, and which alone was covered, and therefore intended for the Ladies.

Laſtly, this magnificent Fabric was entirely cruſted over with the fineſt Marbles of Antiquity, enriched with Columns and Statues, the greateſt Part of which are ſo well preſerved in their Niches, that it would be an eaſy matter to re-eſtabliſh them in all their Perfection: but as the Work was ſet about at firſt in the manner of mining, they thought of nothing but the removing all the Ornaments of this Theatre, ſo that at preſent there remains only the maſſy Lumps of ſo beautiful a building under a Vault of eighty Feet in Thickneſs, which nevertheleſs does not hinder one who is below in the ancient City from hearing diſtinctly the Noiſe of the Carriages which paſs through *Portici*. Notwithſtanding that all imaginable Care has been taken to know with certainty the Plane of this Edifice of which we have attempted

to give an Idea, we cannot warrant theſe Meaſures as altogether juſt, as one can only ſee it in detached Parts, the whole never having been brought into view, but only ſucceſſively, becauſe in clearing away one Part the other muſt be filled, ſo that in reality one can hardly ſee the half; it is the ſame with regard to the other Buildings of which we ſhall ſpeak in theſe Memoirs.

Long after the Diſcovery of the Theatre they found the following Inſcription, L. ANNIUS L. F. MAMMIANUS. RUFUS II. VIR QUNQ. THEATRO.... NUMISIUS P. F. ARO ..... HERCVLAN ... [1]. The Marble on which this Inſcription was, is ſo ruined that it was not poſſible to take it out entire, and we only mention it here as it was the firſt Proof they had, that this Subterranean City was *Herculaneum.*

SECTION V.

Of the Forum of Herculaneum, *and the two neighbouring Temples.*

IN carrying on their Works towards the *Portici* Side, they found a large Street

[1] *Marcheſe Venuti* is of Opinion that this *Numiſius* is he who lived in the Time of *Auguſtus*, and of whom *Vitruvius* makes mention in his Preface under the Name of *Minidius* and *Numidius*. See *Marcheſe Venut.* Account of the firſt Diſcoveries.

36 Feet broad, and flanked on the right and left by two Risings of the Ground, adorned with Porticos under which People might walk afoot. This Street conducted the Workmen to three publick Buildings, two of which were contiguous, and they found by the Front of the Greatest, that it was only separated by a Street which formed betwixt them a Portico or Vestible which was common to them, and was covered with a Roof which equally extended over the three Buildings.

Upon comparing the most considerable of these Edifices with the Description which *Vitruvius* gives [m] of Gymnasiums, it is easily known not to be one, altho' there are Porticos which may be taken for those in which the Masters gave their public Lectures. One might, if it was necessary, find the Ephebeum where only Youth studied, the Coryceum or Apodyterion where they deposited the Habits proper for the Exercises, and the Cestus's for the Athletæ [n]; but there were wanting the Palæstra, the Sphæristerion, the Baths, and the Stadium, and moreover this Edifice was paved, whereas the Gymnasiums were not.

As this Fabric is almost entirely brought in View, there is no Appearance of its being a

[m] *Vitruv.* lib. xv. c. xi. [n] See a very ingenious and particular Account of these Games and what belonged to them, in Mr. *West*'s Olympics.

Basilica,

Baſilica, as theſe ſort of Buildings have always been made with Roofs and Galleries raiſed on Pillars, with Shops on the two Sides, which were not found in this Building; yet notwithſtanding, there are, towards the Middle of this, two Kinds of Tribunals, which may be looked on as the place where the Centumvirs and Tribunes ſeated themſelves to adminiſter Juſtice; but this is not a reaſon ſufficient to evince that it was a *Baſilica*.

We might ſuppoſe with more probability, that this is a Calcidicum, if we were not too much in the Dark with regard to the Nature of the Building to which the Ancients gave this Name; ſome of the Moderns pretending to prove by the Etymology of the Wood, that this was a Bank, and the very Place where the Money was coined, while others maintain that it was a Hall in the Forum, allotted for the Advocates and Orators.

From an Inſcription found in this laſt Age near *Portici*, there is a Proof that there was a Calcidicum in *Herculaneum* °; but it is not likely

° PRIDIE. K. MARTIAS IN. CUR. SCRIBENDO. ADFUERE. CUNCTI. QUOD. VERBA. FACTA. SUNT. M. M. MEMMIOS. RUFOS. PAT. & FIL. & VIRI. .... ITER.. PECUNIA. PONDERATI. & CALCIDICUM & SCHOLAM SECUNDUM MUNICIP. SPLENDOREM. FECISSE QUÆ. TUERI. PUBLICE. DECRETO. D. E. R. I. C. PLACERE. HUIC ORDINI CUM M. M. RUFI PAT. & FIL. II. VIR. ITER. IN EDENDIS. MUNERIBUS. ADEO

likely that this is the Building found in the Ruins of this Subterranean City, as it is open at Top, which is contrary to the Idea we have of a Calcidicum, which is deſcribed as a magnificent Hall, without explaining either its Uſe or Conſtruction. It ſeems that *Vitruvius* would have us conceive of it as commonly placed at the Extremity of the Baſilica, whence we may infer that the Fabric we treat of is not a Calcidicum, as we find that there was no Baſilica attached to it; and that it is a Building detached from any other except the Exterior Part which is common to the two ſmall Temples.

ADEO LIBERALES. FUERINT. UT. EORUM. MONUMENTA. DECORI MUNICIPIO SINT ADEO DILIGENTES. UT VITIEIS. PUNDERUM. OCCURRERINT. IDQUE IN PERPETUUM. PROVIDERINT PLACERE. DECURIONIB. M. M. MEMMIOS RUFOS. PAT. & FIT. DUM II VIVERENT. EORUM POS. . . . M. ET. SCHOLÆ & CALCIDICI. QUÆ IPSI FECISSENT. PROCURATIONEM. DARI. UTQUE SERVOS. EJUS . . . . M. P. JUS. EST. . . . NEGOTIO, PRÆPONERENT. IDEOQUE INDE. ABDUCI. SINE DECURIONUM DECRETO & M. M. MEMIIS RUFIS PAT. & FIL PUBLICI. GRATIAS. AGEI. QUOD ITERATIONI. HONORI. EORUM. NON AMBITIONEI. NEQUE JACTATIONI. SUÆ DEDERINT SED IN CULTUM. MUNICIPI. & DECOREM CONTULERINT.

As we could not ſee the Original of the above Inſcription, we have given it as we found it.

†

All that is moſt obſervable in this Structure, agrees perfectly well with the Forum Civile, or Place of Juſtice of the Ancients. That of *Julius Cæſar* at *Rome* had near it the Temples of Peace and *Venus* [p], that of *Auguſtus* was near the Temple of *Mars* [q] the Avenger, and that of *Narva*, near the Temple of *Pallas* and *Janus Quadriceps*. Each of theſe Forums had Porticos, and were adorned with a great number of Statues [r], afoot or ſitting, and ſome *Equeſtrian*, as among the firſt that of *Julius Cæſar* made by [s] *Liſippus* of gilded Bronze. *Trajan* had his likewiſe placed on the Porticos of his Forum [t], where the Conſuls met on the 1ſt of *January* on Account of the Ceremonies of delivering the Slaves: In fine, all theſe Buildings were deſigned for the Diſtribution of Juſtice.

Upon an Examination of this Place of which we have been talking, we muſt immediately conclude that it is the Forum of the

[p] *Donatus*, lib. 2. c. xxii.

[q] *Sueton. in Auguſto.*

[r] *Onofr. Panvinio Nardini.*

[s] *Sueton. in Julio Cæſare.* Plin. lib. viii.

[t] Cedat Equus Latiæ qui contra templa Diones
Cæſari ſtat ſede fori quem tradere es auſus
Pellæo Liſippe Duci; mox Cæſaris Ora
Aurata cervice tulit, *&c.* *Statius*, lib. 1. Sylv.

[u] Nam modo nos jam feſta vocant & ad Ulpia poſcunt
Te fora, donabis quos libertate Quirites
Perge. Pater Patriæ felix atque omnino fauſtæ
Captivos Vincture novos abſolve Vetuſtos.
Sidon. Appol. Am. Marcel. lib. xxii.

Herculaneans.

Herculaneans. Its Plane forms a Paralellogram 178 Feet long and 132 broad.

At first Sight this seems to have been one of the Temples which the Ancients called *Peripteres*, being surrounded with Columns which sustain the Roof of the Portico, which goes within-side all round: The Middle of this Fabric is open, and its Level is about 2 Feet lower than the Portico, to which you ascend by 3 Steps: At about forty Feet distance from this they found two other Squares, each eighteen Feet in Front, with the Sides supported on the Porticos and about four Feet high. In the Extremity there is a Square, the Sides of which are 24 Feet high. The outward Part of this Building resembles the Sanctuary in Temples: Three Steps lead into this Square, in the Bottom of which is a long Base like our Altars, above which there were three Statues of Marble: That in the Middle is a *Pedestrian* one of *Vespasian*, and the others were seated in Curule Chairs, but without Heads, which have not as yet been found. Under the Portico at the End, and precisely in the Angles which make the Junction with the Porticos of the Sides, there were two semicircular Cavities, in each of which there was a Statue of Bronze, about 9 Feet in height and of great Beauty, the one of *Nero* and the other of *Germanicus*. The Columns which form the inward Porticos were forty-two in

Number, counting these of the Angles, *viz.* seventeen on each Side and eight in the Bottom.

To each of these Columns a half Column corresponds, set up on the Back of a Pilaster. There were placed alternately among these Pilasters, Statues of Marble and Bronze. Of these of Bronze they have only found some Pieces, the rest having been probably melted down by the Heat of the Lava, or destroyed by Time.

Of these they found of Marble on the left Hand, some were entire and others broken, but these on the right had formerly been removed, as may be known by the old hollow Places which are still to be seen. The Facade of this Building presented you with five Entries, two of which led to the lateral Porticos, and three into the Middle; these were formed of four great Pilasters which divided the Facade into five equal Parts. Opposite to each of these Pilasters there was an Equestrian Statue, two of them of Bronze and entirely destroyed, and two of Marble, one of which is perfectly restored, and is the Admiration of the Conoisseurs, who think it better than that of *Marcus Aurelius* which stands on the Capitol [w]. The Inscription [x] is to be seen

[w] This is still a disputed Point, and many give it against the Statue of *Balbus*.

[x] M. NONIO M. F. BALBO. P. R. PRO. COS. HERCULANENSES.

engraved

engraved on the Pedeſtal, which was erected by the Inhabitants of *Herculaneum* to *M. Nonius Balbus*. They have not diſcovered what kind of Facade that is on the other Side of that Roof, which covers the great Portico common to the two ſmall Temples which are in front. This Portico was paved with Marble, but the Walls were not lined with it; being painted in Freſco, and from thence were taken ſome of theſe rare and valuable Pieces which are now in the Cabinet of his *Sicilian* Majeſty.

Does not one ſee then in this Deſcription the Forum of *Herculaneum?* There ſeems to be nothing wanting to give us a full Conviction; beſides you find every thing here which diſtinguiſhes it from all other kind of Fabrics: It has been proved, that the Forums of *Julius Cæſar*, *Auguſtus* and *Nerva*, had different Temples near them, and there are two in the Facade of this Fabric of which we are ſpeaking.

There is nothing particular in theſe two Temples; their Plane is a Paralellogram, but their Size is very unequal; the one is 150 Feet long and 60 broad, the other is only 60 Feet in Length, and in Breadth 42. The Sanctuary is in their Extremities: In the greateſt it goes out of the Square, and the Altar is in the Middle: In the leaſt the Sanctuary ſtands in the Square itſelf, in the inner

Part of the Temple, and is ſhut up by a Wall which has only one Door, in the Facade of which is placed the Statue of the Divinity with the Altar; and one, I think, may preſume that this ſecond Temple is that kind of Chapel which the *Romans* called *Ædicula*.

Entering into this laſt Temple by the only Gate that it has, which is in the middle of the Facade, they found two other Altars on which they probably ſacrificed; and in the Space which is between the Pilaſters of the Gate and the ſide Walls of the Temple there were two kind of ſmall Halls, which were probably the Donative, where they diſpoſed of the Offerings, and where they kept the Sacred Beds, the Veſſels, the Inſtruments, and other Utenſils proper for the Sacrifices.

In the Facade of the other Temple there were two Entries, and againſt the outward Wall which ſeparated them, there leans a great Pedeſtal of 12 Feet in Front; above which were found ſome Pieces of a Chariot of Bronze, whence one may infer that this Pedeſtal ſerved as a Baſe to ſome Curule Statue.

Theſe two Temples were covered with a Roof: Their inward Walls were adorned with Columns, betwixt which there were alternately Pictures in Freſco, and great Tables of Marble encruſted upon the Wall, on which are engraved the Names of the Magiſtrates

who had preſided at the Dedication of theſe Temples, and thoſe of the Colleges, Companies, and Corporations, who had been at the Expence of building or repairing them. Thence it deſerves to be remarked, that Inſcriptions of this kind are found in the Sides, which is a Proof that they were not placed always in the Front, as was the common Opinion.

Thoſe, however, who may, after this, examine into the Truth of theſe Deſcriptions on the Spot, will perhaps be ſurprized to find no Veſtige either of the Forum or of the neighbouring Temples; but they ought to remember, that in proportion as they dig anew, they fill up theſe places already viſited, as I have ſaid above.

SECTION VI.

Of the Houſes and Streets of Herculaneum.

HItherto there have no Houſes been found in *Herculaneum* which deſerve our particular Notice. All theſe which have been diſcovered in about 300 Perches in Length, and 150 in Breadth, appear of an uniform Architecture: The Colony of *Herculaneum* was obliged, by Laws made at different Times, to keep them in order, and more particularly by

by thoſe of *Claudius* [x] and *Nero* [y], engraven on Tables of Braſs, which were found faſtened in

[x] CN. HOSIDIO. GETA. L. VAGELLIO. COS X CAL: OCTOB. S. C. Cum Providentia optumi principis tectis quoque urbis noſtræ & totius Italiæ Æternitati proſpexerit, quibus ipſe non ſolum præcepto auguſtiſſimo ſed etiam exemplo ſuo prodeſt, conveniretque fælicitati ſecuti inſtantis proportioni publicorum operum etiam privatorum Cuſtodiæ deberent quæ abſtinere ſe omnes cruentiſſimæ genere negotiationis ne Inimiciſſimam pace faciem inducerent Ruinis domum Villarumque placere, ſi quis negotiandi cauſa emiſſet aliquod Edificium, ut diruendo plus acquirerent quam quanti emiſſet; tum duplam pecuniam qua mercatus eam reemeſſet in æra inferri utique de eo nihil omnibus ad Senatum referretur; cumque æque non oporteret malo exemplo vendere quam emere; Venditores quoque coercerentur qui ſcientes dolo malo contra hanc Senatus voluntatem vendidiſſent, placere tales Venditiones irritas fieri, cæterum teſtari Senatum dominis conſtitui, qui rerum ſuarum poſſeſſores futuri, aliquas partes earum mutaverint dum non negotiationis cauſa id factum cenſuerint in Senatu fuerunt, CCC. LXXXIII.

[y] VOLUSIO. P. CORNELIO. COS. VI. NON. MART. S. C. quoque VOLUSIUS P. CORNELIUS. VERB. FECERUNT. DE POSTULATIONE. NECESSARIORUM ALLIATORIÆ CLESILIÆ. Q. D. E. R. F. P. D. F. R. I. C.

Cum S. C. quod factum eſt Hoſidio GETA L VAGELLIE COS. clariſſimis Viris Ante X. K. Oct. autore D. Claudio cautum eſſet ne quis Domum Villamve derueret, quod ſibi acquireret, neve quis Negotiandi cauſa, eorum quid emeret venderetve pœnaque in Emptorem qui adverſus id S. C. feciſſet, conſtituta eſſet, Ita vel is qui quicquid emiſſet duplum, ejus quanti emiſſet in Ærarium inferri cogeretur & ejus quam vendidiſſet irrita fieret Venditio: de iis autem qui rerum ſuarum poſſeſſores futuri aliquas partes eorum mutaſſent,

in a Wall when they were digging the Earth, ſome Years ago, near *Torre di Græco*, which is a Proof that *Herculaneum* extended from this Place to *Portici*; but its Breadth could not be great, as it was ſhut up between Mount *Veſuvius* and the Sea Shore.

The Inſide of moſt of theſe Houſes were painted in Freſco: In ſome of theſe Pictures are repreſented Fables and hiſtorical Pieces,

taſſent, dummodo non Negotiationis mutaſſent, nihil eſſet novatum & Neceſſarii Alliatoriæ Celſiliæ Uxoris Attil: Luperis ornatiſſimi viri expoſuiſſent, huic ordini patrem ejus Attratorium Celſum, emiſſe fundos cum Ædificiis in Regione mulinienſi qui vocarentur Camp. matri, In quibus Locis mercatus..... Superioribus ſolitus eſſet temporibus jam per aliquod deſiiſſet haberi, eaque Ædificia longa vetuſtate dilaberentur neque refacta uſui eſſent futura, quia nec habitaret in iis quiſquam nec vellet in deſerta eruentia commigrare ne quid fraud. multæ penæque eſſent Celſilia; ſi ea Ædificia de quibus in hoc ordine actum eſſet aut demolita fuiſſent, aut ea conditione, ſive per ſe, ſive cum agris vendidiſſet aut emptoris ſine fraude ſua ea deſtruere tollereque liceret.

In futuro autem admonendos cæteros eſſet ut abſtinerent ſe a tam ſædo genere Negotiationum, hoc præcipue ſæculi quo excitari novari, ornari in univerſa quibus fælicitas orbis terrarum ſplenderet, magis convenire, quem ruinis Ædificiorum aliam partem de formem Italiæ ..... & adhuc retinere priorum temporum, ita ut diceretur ſenectute actum .... cenſuere in Senatu.

We ſhould have been glad to correct the Errors which have crept into this Inſcription from the Original, but theſe Tables on which they were engraven have ſo often changed their Maſters, that we know not where to find them.

and

and his Majeſty has ordered as many of them to be removed as poſſible, but in moſt part of the Houſes they are commonly of one Colour, and that red, with ſlight Ornaments as Birds reſting on Ropes, or hung thereto by their Beaks, or the Feet: You alſo ſee ſome other Animals, and ſometimes Flowers.

All the Streets are in regular Lines, with raiſed Rails on each Side for the Convenience of thoſe on foot. They are paved with a kind of Stone like thoſe with which the Streets of *Naples* are laid, and thence it is probable, that they had them from the ſame Quarry, the *Lava* of *Veſuvius*.

This manifeſtly proves the Errors of theſe Authors who contend that the Eruption which happened under the Reign of *Titus*, was the firſt from *Veſuvius*. For it is certain the *Vulcano* never throws out this Lava but in its moſt violent Eruptions, and there ſeems to be inexhauſtible Mines of that Matter already thrown out; the Deſcriptions the Antients have left us is a further Proof of it.

" This Place, ſays *Dionyſius Halicarnaſſeus* [z], " is called *Flegreen*, becauſe it had, in times " paſt, vomited a Quantity of Fire as *Ætna* " in *Sicily*. At preſent it is called *Veſuvius*, " and ſtill preſerves many Marks of its Burn- " ings."

[z] *Dionyſ. Hal.* lib. iii.

Strabo

Strabo thus deſcribes this Mountain [b], "Mount *Veſuvius* is ſurrounded with a beautiful Country, except its Top, which is quite barren, and ſeems as if it was covered with Aſhes: There are ſtill to be ſeen Caverns, whoſe Openings are black with the Smoak, and calcined by the Fire, ſo that one would ſay, that this Place had formerly been burnt, and that it was a Vulcano, but had been extinguiſhed for want of inflammable Materials."

"They report, ſays *Vitruvius* [c], that anciently *Veſuvius* threw out a deal of Fire, and that it had ſpread a Quantity of Flame over the Country."

Silius Italicus [d], who flouriſhed under *Nero*, repreſents *Veſuvius* as a Mountain from which Fire had cauſed great Devaſtations, and deſtroyed even the Rocks on the Top of it.

Statius [e], who moſt probably wrote before the Empire of *Titus*, gives us nevertheleſs a diſtinct Idea of the Eruptions of *Veſuvius*.

[b] *Strabo*, lib. v.

[c] *Vitruv.* lib. ii. cap. vi.

[d] Monſtratur *Veſeva* juga atque in vertice ſummo,
Depaſti flammis ſcopuli fractuſque ruina,
Mons circum, &c. *Silius Ital.* lib. vii.

[e] Hoc ego Calcidicis ad te Marcelle ſonabam,
Littoribus, fractas cum Veſuvius egerit Iras.
Statius lib. iv. ver. 4.

" We know, says *Pliny*[f] the second, that, " a Year before the Defeat and Death of *Craſ-* " *ſus*, there fell in Lucania, a Shower of Mar- " caſite of Iron, which reſembled Spunges."

Julius Obſequens[g] relates, in his Treatiſe of Prodigies, that under the Conſulſhip of *Caius Martius* III. and *Titus Manlius Torquatus*, it rained Stones in *Rome*, and that it was dark as Night at Noon-day.

Theſe Showers of Stones and Marcaſites (happening the one 422 Years, and the other 132, before the Ruin of *Herculaneum*,) could proceed from nothing but *Veſuvius*, which always produced ſuch Phænomena in its Burnings, and theſe are what they called *Showers of Aſhes*. It is therefore paſt doubt that before the Reign of *Titus*, there had been Eruptions, and none ſhould be ſurprized that the Aſhes came into *Lucania*, and even as far as *Rome*, as Count *Marcellino*[h], Cardinal *Baronius*[i], and *Procopius*[k], affirm; that theſe which had come from this Vulcano in the Eruption of 472, had covered all *Europe*; and that they were thrown by the Winds to *Conſtantinople*, where every Year they celebrate the Commemoration of it, on the fifth of *November*, with publick Orations *.

[f] *Plin.* See lib. ii. c. 56.
[g] *Julius Obſequens* de prodigii.
[h] Croniche del Conte Marcellino.
[i] Annal. Baron.
[k] Procop. lib. iii. cap. iv.
* This almoſt exceeds our Belief.

Dionyſius

Dionyſius[l] and *Agricola*[m] inform us, that in the Eruption which deſtroyed *Herculaneum* and *Pompeja*, the Aſhes were carried into *Africa*, *Egypt*, and *Syria*.

SECTION VII.

Of the Paintings found in Herculaneum.

THE Paintings in Freſco, which are ſaved * from the Ruins of *Herculaneum* hitherto, and preſerved in the Cabinet of his *Sicilian* Majeſty, are of all Sizes, and in number about 400[n]; and the greateſt part of them are as freſh as modern Paintings: But, excepting a Dozen of theſe Pieces which are of a natural Size, moſt of them are but 10 or 12 Inches long, and broad in proportion, repreſenting only Cupids, wild Beaſts, and Birds. Theſe little Pieces are all valuable, but are no ways comparable with the large ones: In theſe the Figures are deſigned with all poſſible Correctneſs, and the Expreſſion

[l] *Dion.* lib. xxxiv.

[m] *Agricola* de natura eorum quæ affluunt in terra.

* That theſe Paintings might be ſaved, they put in Execution what *Varro* mentions to have been done with the Works of *Damophilus* and *Gorgaſus* the celebrated Painters who embelliſhed the Temple of *Ceres* near the *Circus Maximus* at *Rome*. *Ex hac cum reficerentur cruſtas parietum exciſas tabulis marginatis incluſas eſſe.* See *Dementioſus de pictura veteri*, *Junius de pictura veterum.*

[n] They continue to find more every Day.

ſeems to ſhew that nothing is wanting °. But there are few in which the Fleſh Colours are perfect, which either may be owing to ſome Defect in the Painting, or an Alteration brought on by Time, the Colours being diſagreeable and too much on the red ; and beſides, the Degradations are ſeldom obſerved.

One Colour often forms the Ground of theſe Pictures; the moſt eſteemed of which are a naked Hercules, as big as the Life; a Satyr holding a Nymph in his Arms; *Theſeus* receiving the Thanks of the *Athenian* Maidens, for having delivered them from the Minataur; *Virginia* accompanied by her Father and *Icilius* her Lover, in the Moment that *Marcus Claudius* receives her before the Decemvir *Appius*, and the Education of *Achilles* by the Centaur *Chiron*. This laſt is moſt univerſally admired.

In general they are all better preſerved * than the famous Marriage in the *Aldobrandini* Palace,

° *Selimena* ſaid of them, that he never ſaw any Pieces of that Size ſo well done.—They were judged by all the Painters who ſaw them, to be extremely curious, both on account of the fine Drawing, after the Manner of *Raphael*, and alſo as they had lain ſo many Ages under Ground, without loſing the Freſhneſs of their Colours.

* The World is indebted to the *Marcheſe Venuti* that theſe Paintings are ſo well preſerved; for obſerving that the Parget on which theſe Paintings were, being expoſed to the open Air, had begun to give, he applied to his *Sici-*

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Palace, which, by this Diſcovery, loſes its greateſt Merit, as it is now no more a Rarity.

There is only one of theſe Paintings whoſe Ground forms a *perſpective*, but this is enough to prove that it was not ſo ſtrange among the Antients, as the Moderns would perſuade us. Should not what *Plutarch*, *Vitruvius*, and *Suida* ſay, undeceive them in that Particular? They tell us, that *Agatharcas* of *Samos*, who flouriſhed in *Athens* about the 75th *Olympiad*, had, in favour of *Æſchylus*, invented the Decorations of the Theatre, according to all the Rules of Perſpective, about which he likewiſe publiſhed a Treatiſe.

Among the Cities of *Lydia*, famous for the Temple of *Victory*, and for a pretended Prodigy, which, they ſay, happened before the Battle of *Pharſalia*. The Painter *Apalurius* had decorated the Theatre by the ſame Rules, and the Effects of it are not better explained by *Leonard. da Vinci* than *Plato* has done, in

lian Majeſty for Leave, that an Acquaintance of his, Signior *Moriconi* of *Sicily*, an Officer in the Artillery, might attempt to do a Varniſh over them, which ſhould be tranſparent and ſtick on the Wall. As he had made many Improvements in Varniſhing, he try'd it on ſome Fragments of the painted Walls, and it ſucceeded ſurpriſingly, not only in preſerving, but even in enlivening the Colours, ſo that they will remain for many Ages the Ornament of that King's Palace. See *Venuti*'s Account of the firſt Diſcoveries of *Heraclea*, &c.

his

his Dialogue of the Sophiſt, and *Socrates* in the Tenth Book of his Republic.

Some of theſe Pictures are only of two Colours, others of them have three or four, and there is a Picture in Freſco which repreſents ſimple Ornaments, among which are different kinds of Flowers, and of all Colours; and there are green and blue in theſe as well as in many other of the Pictures.

It has hitherto then been believed without Foundation, that theſe two Colours were unknown to the Antients, to whom the Moderns, building upon a Paſſage of *Pliny* [p], do not allow of the Knowledge of any except the White of Melos, the Yellow of *Athens*, the Red of *Sinope*, and ſimple Black. But it ſeems to me that this Paſſage is interpreted too literally; ſo far is true indeed, that *Pliny* ſays that Painters in his Time made uſe of theſe four Colours, but he does not ſay that theſe were the only Colours they uſed. On the contrary, this Philoſopher ſpeaking of theſe of Sile *, which *Polygnetes* and *Micon* made uſe of in painting the Porch (Ποικιλης-όα) of *Athens* [q], diſtinguiſhes the Blue into three Sorts; the two firſt of *Egypt* and *Scythia*, and the third of *Spain*, and *Puzzuoli*. In another Place he praiſes the

[p] *Plin.* lib. xxxv. cap. 7.

* A kind of yellow Earth, which, by Calcination makes a Vermilion for Painters.

[q] *Plin.* lib. xxiii. cap. 13.

Purple

Purple [r] of this laſt City, and gives it the Preference to that of *Getulia* and *Laconia*; and laſtly, we cannot allow the Antients the Knowledge of the Yellow and the Blue, without agreeing at the ſame time, that they knew the Green, which is compounded of theſe two Colours: A Diſcovery too eaſily made to be overlooked, and ſuch as could not eſcape Men ſo ingenious, and who made ſo frequent uſe of Painting †.

Nor will the World be ſurprized to ſee the Paintings of *Herculaneum* ſo freſh and well preſerved, if they conſider that they cannot have been long expoſed to the Injuries of the Air. They muſt have been newly made at the Time they were buried under the Lava and Aſhes of *Veſuvius*, as Painting in Freſco was then but lately diſcovered in *Italy*, where

[r] *Plin.* lib. xxxiv. cap. 7.

† The Progreſs the Antients had made in Painting is beautifully deſcribed by *Petronius Arbiter*, for he ſays, *In Pinothecam perveni variogenere tabularum mirabilem. Nam & Zeuxidos manus vidi nondum vetuſtatis injuria victas, & Protogenis rudimenta cum ipſius naturæ veritate certantia, non ſine quadam horrore tractavi. Jam vero Apellis quam Græci* Μονοχρώμου *appellant etiam adoravi. Tanta enim ſubtilitate extremitates imaginum erant ad ſimilitudinem Præciſæ ut crederes etiam animorum eſſe picturam. Hinc aquila ferebat cœlo ſublimis Deum. Hinc candidus Hylas repellebat improbam Naiada. Damnabat Appollo noxias manus, Lyramque reſolutam modo nato flore honorabat. Inter quos etiam pictorum amantium Vultus tanquam in ſolitudine exclamavi:* Ergo amor etiam Deos tangit. Petron. Arbiter. Satyr. cap. 43.

it was invented by *Ludius*[r], in the Reign of *Auguſtus*, whoſe Death happened about 73 Years before the Ruin of *Herculaneum*.

It is worth our notice, that this *Ludius* firſt painted Landſkips and Architecture on Walls. Now what Idea can we form of this kind of work, pray, if we do not allow the Antients the Uſe of Green, and a Knowledge in Perſpective?

SECTION VIII.

Of the Moſaic Work.

THERE are found in *Herculaneum* Moſaic Works likewiſe, and his *Sicilian* Majeſty has ordered conſiderable Pieces of it to be taken up, hut they are without Beauty, Taſte, Deſign, Variety, or Mixture of Colours, and you ſee nothing but Ornaments groſsly executed, and of which I cannot give a better Idea, than by comparing them to *Turkey* Carpets. Theſe Pieces of Moſaic are greatly inferior to thoſe which are made at the *Vatican*, as the Antients only made uſe of them in the Pavements of their Houſes and publick Buildings, called very properly, by *Vitruvius*, *Pavimentum Sectile*. Nevertheleſs they made ſome ſmall Pictures of delicate Workmanſhip *, but

[r] *Plin.* lib. xxxv. cap. 10.

* I have ſeen in the Palace of *Fulcetti* at *Rome*, a Piece

but always imperfect, as their Mosaic consisted only of natural Stones, and at present they use artificial ones, which are of all the Colours they can have occasion for.

SECTION IX.

Of the Statues.

THE Number of Statues found in *Herculaneum* is very great; those of Bronze are all bruised, broken or wanting in some part. There were likewise many, of which there are not the smallest Pieces saved. The Metal is so changed, that with great Difficulty they were able to restore five entirely. These represent *Nero* and *Germanicus*, as has been mentioned abvoe, *Claudius* and two Ladies, whose Names are not known; neither should we have known the others but by comparing them with the Medals we have of these Emperors.

The Marble Statues are hitherto unknown, except an *Atlanta*, a *Vespasian*, a *Mammius Maximus*, known by the Inscription [t] en-

Piece of Mosaic, found in the Pavement of the *Villa Adriana*, near *Tivoli*, of most elegant Workmanship. There are some lately set up in the Capitol, not ill executed, (the Donation of the present Pope,) that Place serving now chiefly as a Repository for Antiquities.

[t] L .... MAMMIO MAXIMO AUGUSTALI MUNICIPES & INCOLÆ ÆRE CONLATO.

graven on thePedeſtal, and ſome other Statues of the Family of *Balba*.

They only form vain Conjectures on the others; the greateſt part of them are conſular ones. The two placed on the Curule Chair, and which were found in the Forum, are comparable to any that Antiquity has left us moſt perfect in this kind, and all the others are much eſteemed, particularly the Atlanta, in which they believe they can diſcover the Workmanſhip and Marble to be *Greek*.

They are buſied at preſent in reſtoring an Equeſtrian Statue found in the Entrance of the Forum, juſt by that which was erected to *M. Nonius Balbus*.

As they have in digging diſcovered only the ſmalleſt Part of the City of *Herculaneum*, it is probable that there are ſtill many other Statues in it. It is certain at leaſt, that the Inhabitants erected one to *L. Munatius Conceſſianus*, as is evident by an Inſcription [w] found accidentally

[w] L. MUNATIO CONCESSIANO V. P. PATRONO. COLONIÆ. PRO. MERITIS. EJUS. ERGA. CIVES MUNIFICA. LARGITATE. OLIM HONOREM. DEVITUM. PRÆSTANTISSIMO. VIRO PRÆSENS TEMPUS EREGIT. QUO ETIAM MUNATI. CONCESSIANI FILI SUI DEMARCHIA CUMULATIORE. SUMPTU LIBERALITATIS ABUNDANTIA UNIVERSIS EXHIBUIT CIVIBUS OBQUE TESTIMONIA AMORIS SINCERISSIMI REQ. PRIMARIA SPLENDIDISSIMA

cidentally in digging between *Portici* and *Torre di Græco*. Among the ſmall Statues of Bronze which they find every Day, there are many who ſeem to have been Penates or Houſhold Gods of the *Herculaneans*. Among them there are ſome *Pantheas*; at leaſt this is the Opinion of the Antiquaries about a *Mercury*, who holds in his Right Hand a full Purſe, and in his Left a Crater, on which is a Tortoiſe; which perhaps is only an Allegory, to ſhew that Riches come as a Tortoiſe moves, or to ſhew that this God was the Inventor of that Inſtrument of Muſic called by the *Latins Phorminx*, and more commonly a *Teſtudo*, becauſe in its Shape it bears ſome Reſemblance to a Tortoiſe.

They have likewiſe dug up many Buſts of Marble, the prettieſt of which are theſe of *Jupiter Ammon*, of *Juno*, *Pallas*, *Ceres*, *Neptune*, *Mercury*, *Janus* with the two Faces, and of a Girl and a *Roman* Youth, with the Golden Bulla which hangs at the Breaſt. This is not in the Shape of a Heart, as ſome of the Moderns repreſent it, but of a regular oval Figure, is only an Inch broad, 17 Lines high, and 4 thick. This Bulla in ſo far differs from

SIMA HERCULANENSIUM PATRONO MIRABILI STATUAM PONENDVM DECREVIT.

This Inſcription is actually fixed on a Wall under the Gate which leads to the two Courts of the Nunnery of St. *Antonio* at *Naples*.

theſe which ſerv'd them who went in triumph, that thoſe laſt were 2 Fingers and a half in diameter at leaſt, and were of a round Shape.

They found but few Baſſo-relievos, and theſe ſo trifling, that they deſerve not to be mentioned. The only one which merits Attention repreſents a Sacrifice.

SECTION X.

Of Medals.

THEY have found ſuch a Number of Medals in *Herculaneum*, that we cannot undertake to give a Detail of them: A Subject ſo large would require a ſeparate Treatiſe. They are moſtly conſular, or of the high Empire, and they are of every kind of Metal.

Altho' the Medals of that Time are common enough, yet they may ſtill find ſome that are Curioſities, either for their Reverſes, their Types, or their Legends; and they have at leaſt the Merit of being as well preſerved as we could wiſh. May not we hope that antient *Herculaneum* will ſerve to enrich us with ſome Medals of Bronze of *Otho*'s? This Hope ſeems the better founded, as they are every Day digging out Medals of all the Emperors who went before, or came after, even to the Time of *Titus* and *Domitian*, which takes in all

all the high Empire. It is true, that the four firſt Emperors had fewer than their Succeſſors, but they find a great Number of *Claudius*, *Nero*, *Galba*, ſome of *Vitellius*, and many of *Veſpaſian*'s and *Titus*.

Theſe of *Nero* merit little Attention, except a Medallion of Bronze: On one Side of it there is the Head of this Emperor, with the following Legend: NERO. CLAUDIUS. CÆSAR. AUG. GERMANICUS. P. M. TR. P. IMP. P. P. P. The reverſe repreſents a Man ſitting naked as low as the Belt, with the reſt of his Body covered with Drapery, ſhowing with his Right Hand a kind of Coffer, and holding in his Left a Rudder. There is before him a Lady on Foot, who preſents him with a Cornucopia, and round it is written ANNONA. AUGUSTI CERES. which makes one think that the ſitting Figure repreſents *Nero* himſelf, who holds the Rudder of State in his Hands, and that the Figure at his Foot is *Ceres*, or *Plenty*, who comes to receive his Orders, and opens her Treaſures, which is pointed out by the Attitude of the Right Hand, which ſhews the kind of Cheſt like the Scrinium which is ſeen at the Feet of many Conſular Statues. We don't find the *Senatus Conſultum*, or *ex Senatû conſulto* below, or in the Ground of the Reverſe.

Thoſe of *Vitellius* are rare to be met with, and nevertheleſs they find in theſe Ruins ma-

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ny of Bronze, exceeding fine, both large and of a middle Size. The Legend of the Face of the Medal is almoſt always the ſame, A. VITELLIUS GERMANICUS IMP. AUG. P. M. TR. P. but the Reverſes are different. In ſome of them is *Mars* holding a Spear in his Right Hand, and carrying the *Roman* Standard upon his Left Shoulder, without a Reading. In others *Peace* is repreſented, holding in one Hand a Branch of Olive, and in the other a Cornucopia, with theſe Words for the Reading, PAX AUGUSTI. On the Reverſe of ſome middle-ſiz'd Medals of Braſs of this ſame Emperor, is a ſitting Figure, with the Edge of the Robe on the Right Arm, with which ſhe ſeems to hide her Face, and has an Altar oppoſite to her. The Writing round about it is SECURITAS POPULI ROMANI, and on the lower Part S. C. but on the Reverſes of the firſt and ſecond kind, theſe Letters are on the Ground.

Among *Veſpaſian*'s Medals there is one with this Reading round the Head, IMP. CÆSAR VESPASIAN. AUG. P. M. TR. P. P. COS. III. The Reverſe repreſents a Lady ſitting with her Back againſt a Palm, with her Head hanging down, ſupported on her Hand like one afflicted. Under the ſame Palm there is a Man a-foot, with his Hands chained behind his Back, and at the Side of this Slave is a Tro-

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phy of Arms, with this Reading, IUDÆA CAPTA. and at the Foot of it S. C.

Every Medal which eſtabliſhes a hiſtorical Fact, or which fixes an Epocha, is a curious Remain; but it acquires a new Value when its Type is rare. Such are the triumphal Chariots repreſented on the Emperor's Medals. The Ruins of *Herculaneum* afford few of this kind, nay they have only found one hitherto of *Titus*: The Reading round the Emperor's Head is T. CÆS. VESP. IMP. PON. TR. POT. COS. II. CENS. And on the Reverſe a Quadriga, with four Horſes in front, faſtened to it, ſeeming to march ſlowly, while thoſe which are faſtened to the Chariots, deſtined for running in the Circus, ſeem to gallop; beſides, that in theſe Chariots there are either a Pair of Horſes or Tygers, and the Chariot is made like a Shell; but this which is on the Reverſe of *Titus*'s Medal is abſolutely of the ſame Form with that which is repreſented on the *Baſſo Relievo*, upon the lateral Part of the Triumphal-Arch, erected to this Emperor by the *Roman* People.

This Chariot then does not point out the *Circæan* Games, which *Titus* might have given, but is the Symbol of a Triumph which was allowed him by the Senate for having conquered *Judæa* jointly with *Veſpaſian* his Father. This Reverſe is without a Reading, and has only S. C. under it, as is common.

The Ruining of *Herculaneum* happened before the Reign of *Domitian*; notwithſtanding which they find Medals of this Emperor, which ſeems a Contradiction; but the greateſt Number of them were ſtruck in his firſt Conſulates, yet there are ſome even when he was Emperor. We muſt ſuppoſe then, that they were loſt by thoſe who antiently dug in this ruined City, either with a Deſign to make Reſearches, as we know by the old Diggings, of which we have ſpoken above, or to work at the Re-eſtabliſhment of it, agreeable to the Orders of *Titus*, as has been before mentioned. This Emperor was ſnatched too ſoon out of this World, to have time to execute a Project ſo worthy of him; probably *Domitian* his Succeſſor would have followed his Footſteps, but that he having given Orders to begin the Work, it was abandoned too ſoon by thoſe employed in it, from the little Hopes there was to ſucceed in ſo grand an Undertaking. This little Attempt of his, however, is ſufficient to account for their finding this Emperor's Medals in the Ruins of *Herculaneum*.

They find likewiſe every kind of engraved Gemms in theſe Ruins, many of which are ſet in coarſely-worked Rings, but the Gemms are almoſt always perfect.

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SECTION XI.

Of the Inſtruments and Utenſils deſtined for the Sacrifices.

AS the Inſtruments and Utenſils deſtined for the Sacrifices were not always of the ſame ſort in that Ceremony, and as thoſe which were of general uſe had nevertheleſs ſome Difference in their Shape, according to the Nature of the Sacrifice; it would be too tedious a Work here to deſcribe all theſe which they have found in this City, and perhaps too difficult to mark out their Uſe and Deſtination. Let it ſuffice then to mention, that they are of every kind: Altars, for Sacrifices, for Libations; portable ones, like Tripods, called, by the *Latins*, *Anclabris*, Baſons, Pateræ, Veſſels to hold the Water for the Luſtra, others for the Wine which they poured on the Victims Heads, Pots for the Libations, Hatchets, Knives for the Victims, Glaſſes to hold the Tears, *&c.* Part of theſe are of Marble, ſome of Braſs, others of burnt Earth, and the laſt of Glaſs *.

* See an exact Diary of all the Curioſities they found daily in the Summer Seaſon of 1739, in *Marcheſe Venuti*'s Account of *Heraclea*, Part II. Ch. x. as a Specimen of the Variety of Curioſities found there, and which we dare not venture to tire the Reader with in this Place.

SECTION XII.

Of Lamps.

THE old Poets, ſpeaking of *Herculaneum*, repreſent this City and its Environs as the Throne of *Venus* *. To judge of the Veneration that was paid this Deity, you need only obſerve theſe Lamps that they find in digging here. Theſe of burnt Earth are modeſt, excepting a few on which you ſee thoſe undecent Figures called by the Antients generally *Sphinctria*. But the Lamps of Braſs are ſo many Monuments of the daily Homage they paid to this Goddeſs, and you may obſerve in their different Shapes all that the moſt unchaſte Imagination can produce.

* Hic eſt pampineis veridis modo Veſuvius umbris
Preſſerat hic madidos mobilis Uva Lacus
Hæc Juga, quam Niſæ colles plus Bacchus amavit
Hoc nuper ſatyri monte dedere choros.
Hæc veneris ſedes Lacædemone gratior illi
Hic locus Herculeo nomme clarus erat
Cuncta jacent flammis & triſti merſa favilla;
Nec ſuperi vellent hoc licuiſſe ſibi.

MART. lib. iv. ep. 44.

SECTION XIII.

Of the Furniture and other Curioſities found in Herculaneum.

THIS City furniſhes us with Variety of Houſhold Goods, which the Antients kept either for common Uſe or for their Pleaſure. Among the Tables they have found, there is a very ſingular one of Baſalt: Its Foot repreſents an Iſis, and is of the ſame Stone. They conjecture from the Labour and the Deſign, that this Table muſt have come from *Egypt*.

We will not ſtop to examine the other Curioſities, which conſiſt in Spoons, Urns, Veſſels of every Size and Shape, Lamps like Candleſticks, different kinds of Kitchen Utenſils, Bottles of Glaſs, Hammers and Bars of Doors, Dies to play with, Rings, Ear-rings, Bracelets, Stamps[y], which ſerved as Seals for

 their

[y] It is greatly to be feared that the Hopes of the Learned will be diſappointed in expecting to find Books in this ſubterranean City, as hitherto nothing of that kind has been found, either in the Temples or publick Buildings, excepting little Tablets of Silver and Braſs, with the Diſmiſſion of the Soldiers marked on them, or a few *Greek* Characters like theſe preſerved in the Gallery of the grand Duke in *Florence*, faſtened together with Wire, or Claſps of Braſs. And the more ſo as their Skeletons, and other Animal Subſtances, found there, are ſo brittle as not to be touched without crumbling down: Their Parchments then

their Emperors, *&c.* The greateſt part of them are of Braſs, which proves that Iron was not much uſed by the Antients.

You may ſee, in the King's Cabinet, Corn and Bread of the *Herculaneans*, but both one and t'other are reduced to a kind of hard Charcoal, but ſtill retain their Shape [z].

Would one think it poſſible, that, after 18 Centuries, there ſhould ſtill be preſerved Remains of Ropes in this ſubterranean City? It is true, they are black, and as it were putrified, nevertheleſs they may be handled without reducing them to Powder.

There is Reaſon to believe that few People periſhed in *Herculaneum*, as they ſo rarely find Skeletons. Four or five Years ago, they found one lying on a Stair-caſe, with a Purſe in his Hand, which you could eaſily diſtinguiſh the Shape of, from the Mark left in the Cement wherein were incloſed the Medals, of which the Purſe was full, but the Skeleton

then ſtood no Chance. Some of the Braſs Letters found in this Place are ſo like Types for Printing, that it is matter of great Amazement to the modern World that the Art of Printing ſhould eſcape ſuch ingenious Men as the Antients ſhewed themſelves to be in every thing elſe.

[z] *Marcheſe Venuti* ſays, that they found Eggs entire, wonderfully preſerved; Almonds and Nuts, which kept their natural Colour, but that withinſide their Pulp or Kernel was black as Charcoal. See Part II. Ch. ix.

was

was so brittle that it was impossible to dig it out *.

This admirable Collection of Antiquity will daily become more compleat as the Works advance; and the Curious will find new Monuments, whereby they may settle their Doubts on the Epocha of a Number of historical Facts; as likewise concerning the Customs, Arts, and Ceremonies of the Antients †.

* It will be difficult to reconcile this Conjecture or Evidence with what *Pliny* says of the Eruption, which he speaks of when he says, *Populum in theatro sedentem oblimavit*, unless we imagine that the Eruption which smothered this City the last time was posterior to that whereto *Pliny* refers. See likewise what *Dion* says, speaking of the Eruptions of *Vesuvius*, Και προσέτι ἡ πολις Δυο ὅλας τότε Ἡρκουλανέον ἡ τὸς Πομπήιους ἐν θεάτρῳ τῦ ἰμιλου αὐλῆς καθημένου κατέχωσε. Xiphilin. Epitome Dionis in Tito.

† They continue to employ a Number of Slaves at present in making Researches in this City, and every Day furnishes fresh Materials for the Observation of the Curious.

An Extract from XIPHILINUS's *Epitome of* DION, *which makes particular mention of an Earthquake that happened under the Reign of* Titus, *attended with a violent Eruption of Mount* Vesuvius, *by which the Cities of* Herculaneum *and* Pompeja *were overwhelmed.*

IN the Autumnal Season, some strange and frightful Things happened in *Campania*, for all of a sudden there broke out a great Fire from *Vesuvius*. This Mountain, which is near the Sea-shore of *Naples*, contains an unexhaustible Quantity of combustible Matter. At the Time when the Fire broke out, from the Middle of it, the Top was all of an equal Height. On the Outside it did not burn, and there it continues entire still, the Summit retaining its antient Height; but where the Fire issues forth it gradually becomes hollow, as it subsides, so as to resemble an Amphitheatre, if we may liken small Things to great. Its Summit produces plenty of Trees and Vines. This Circle enlarges daily by the Fire which smoaks in the Day-time and burns clear in the Night, as if they were offering up every kind of Sacrifice within the Mountain, and it does so continually, more or less. When any thing falls into it, it throws up Ashes, and Stones too, if the Wind blows hard. It likewise

echoes

echoes and makes a lowing Noiſe, as if it came thro' Rifts and ſecret Air-Vents, and was not pent up.

Such then is *Veſuvius*, and ſuch its yearly Appearances; and altho' in compariſon with what has paſt, they may ſeem extraordinary to theſe People who are conſtant Spectators, yet they will be looked on as trifling, compared with the preſent, which we ſhall now deſcribe.

There appeared many great Men exceeding the common Size of Mankind, and ſuch as Giants are deſcribed to be. They were ſeen in the Mountains and neighbouring Countries, and wandering up and down in the Towns adjacent, and likewiſe in the Air. After this there happened a great Drought from the extraordinary Heat and violent Earthquake, ſo that the whole Plains were dried up, and the Tops of the Hills ſubſided. The Noiſe under Ground was like Thunder, and on the Surface of the Earth it was like the Lowing of Cattle. The Sea raged, the Heavens reſounded, and an unuſual Noiſe was heard, as if Mountains claſhed together. Then, for the firſt time, Stones of an extraordinary Size were thrown out at the Top, attended with Fire and Smoak, ſo that the Air was darkened thereby, and the Sun was hidden, as in the time of an Eclipſe. Night ſprung from Day, and Light from Darkneſs, and People imagined that the Giants had rebelled, as Ima-

ges

ges of them were ſeen in the Smoak, and the Sounding of Trumpets was heard. Others thought that *Chaos* was come again, and that the general Conflagration was at hand. Theſe things made People run out of their Houſes into the Streets, and thoſe who were in the Streets go within Doors. Thoſe who were on Shipboard went aſhore, and theſe on Land went aboard, every one thinking that any Situation was better than their preſent one. And along with all this, there were ſuch Quantities of Aſhes as poſſeſſed all Space, Earth, Sea, and Air; and wherever it happened, it did hurt both to Men, the Cattle, and the Grounds, and the Fiſhes, and all the Birds were deſtroyed. The two Cities of *Herculaneum* and *Pompeja* were entirely overwhelmed, while the People were ſitting in the Theatre. Such Quantities of Aſhes were thrown out as to reach *Africa*, *Syria*, *Egypt*, and *Rome*; and filled the Air in this laſt Place ſo as to darken the Sun, and ſtruck the People with a Pannic for many Days: Not being able to conjecture what all this meant, they imagined that Nature was turned Upſide down; that the Sun was loſt in the Earth; and that the Earth was gone up to Heaven. Altho' theſe Aſhes did little Damage at that Time to the *Roman* People, yet afterwards they brought on a direful Peſtilence *.

* See *Xiphilinus*'s Epitome of *Dion* in *Tito*.

PLINY's LETTER TO *TACITUS**.

YOUR Requeſt that I would ſend you an Account of my Uncle's Death, in order to tranſmit a more exact Relation of it to Poſterity, deſerves my Acknowledgments; for if this Action ſhall be celebrated by your Pen, the Glory of it, I am well aſſured, will be rendered for ever illuſtrious. And notwithſtanding he periſhed by a Misfortune, which, as it involved at the ſame time a moſt beautiful Country in Ruins, and deſtroyed ſo many populous Cities, ſeems to promiſe him an everlaſting Remembrance; notwithſtanding he has himſelf compoſed many and laſting Works; yet I am perſuaded, the mentioning of him in your immortal Writings, will greatly contribute to eternize his Name. Happy I eſteem thoſe to be, whom Providence has diſtinguiſhed with the Abilities either of doing ſuch Actions as are worthy of being related, or of relating

* See *Pliny*'s Letters, lib. vi. lett. 16.

them in a manner worthy of being read; but doubly happy are they who are bleſſed with both theſe uncommon Talents: In the Number of which my Uncle, as his own Writings, and your Hiſtory will evidently prove, may juſtly be ranked. It is with extreme Willingneſs, therefore, I execute your Commands; and ſhould indeed have claimed the Taſk if you had not enjoined it. He was at that Time with the Fleet under his Command at *Miſenum*. On the 24th of *Auguſt*, about one in the Afternoon, my Mother deſired him to obſerve a Cloud which appeared of a very unuſual Size and Shape. He had juſt returned from taking the Benefit of the Sun, and after bathing himſelf in cold Water, and taking a ſlight Repaſt, was retired to his Study: He immediately aroſe, and went out upon an Eminence from whence he might more diſtinctly view this very uncommon Appearance. It was not at that Diſtance diſcernible from what Mountain this Cloud iſſued, but it was found afterwards to aſcend from Mount *Veſuvius*. I cannot give you a more exact Deſcription of its Figure, than by reſembling it to that of a Pine-tree, for it ſhot up a great Height in the Form of a Trunk, which extended itſelf at the Top into ſort of Branches; occaſioned, I imagine, either by a ſudden Guſt of Air that impelled it, the Force of which decreaſed as it advanced upwards, or the Cloud itſelf being preſſed

preſſed back again by its own Weight, expanded in this Manner: It appeared ſometimes bright, and ſometimes dark and ſpotted, as it was either more or leſs impregnated with Earth and Cinders. This extraordinary Phænomenon excited my Uncle's philoſophical Curioſity to take a nearer View of it. He ordered a light Veſſel to be got ready, and gave me the Liberty, if I thought proper, to attend him. I rather choſe to continue my Studies; for, as it happened, he had given me an Employment of that kind. As he was coming out of the Houſe he received a Note from *Rectina* the Wife of *Baſſus*, who was in the utmoſt Alarm at the imminent Danger which threatened her; for her Villa being ſituated at the Foot of Mount *Veſuvius*, there was no way to eſcape but by Sea; ſhe earneſtly intreated him therefore to come to her Aſſiſtance. He accordingly changed his firſt Deſign, and what he began with a philoſophical, he purſued with an heroical Turn of Mind. He ordered the Gallies to put to Sea, and went himſelf on board with an Intention of aſſiſting not only *Rectina*, but ſeveral others; for the Villas ſtand extremely thick upon that beautiful Coaſt. When haſtening to the Place from whence others fled with the utmoſt Terror, he ſteer'd his direct Courſe to the Point of Danger, and with ſo much Calmneſs and Preſence of Mind, as to be able to make and dictate his

Obſervations upon the Motion and Figure of that dreadful Scene. He was now ſo nigh the Mountain, that the Cinders, which grew thicker and hotter the nearer he approached, fell into the Ships, together with Pumice-ſtones, and black Pieces of burning Rock: They were likewiſe in danger not only of being aground by the ſudden Retreat of the Sea, but alſo from the vaſt Fragments which rolled down from the Mountain, and obſtructed all the Shore. Here he ſtopped to conſider whether he ſhould return back again; to which the Pilot adviſing him, *Fortune*, ſaid he, *befriends the Brave*; *Carry me to* Pomponianus. *Pomponianus* was then at *Stabiæ*, ſeparated by a Gulf, which the Sea, after ſeveral inſenſible Windings, forms upon the Shore. He had already ſent his Baggage on board; for tho' he was not at that Time in actual Danger, yet being within the View of it, and indeed extremely near, if it ſhould in the leaſt encreaſe, he was determined to put to Sea as ſoon as the Wind ſhould change. It was favourable, however, for carrying my Uncle to *Pomponianus*, whom he found in the greateſt Conſternation: He embraced him with Tenderneſs, encouraged and exhorted him to keep up his Spirits, and the more to diſſipate his Fears, he ordered, with an Air of Unconcern, the Baths to be got ready; when after having bathed, he ſat down to Supper with great Chearfulneſs,

or

or at leaſt (what is equally heroic) with all the Appearance of it. In the mean while the Eruption from Mount *Veſuvius* flamed out in ſeveral Places with much Violence, which the Darkneſs of the Night contributed to render ſtill more viſible and dreadful. But my Uncle, in order to ſooth the Apprehenſions of his Friend, aſſured him it was only the burning of the Villages, which the Country People had abandoned to the Flames: After this he retired to reſt, and it is moſt certain he was ſo little diſcompoſed as to fall into a deep Sleep; for being pretty fat, and breathing hard, thoſe who attended without actually heard him ſnore. The Court which led to his Apartment being now almoſt filled with Stones and Aſhes, if he had continued there any time longer, it would have been impoſſible for him to have made his way out; it was thought proper therefore to awaken him. He got up, and went to *Pomponianus* and the reſt of his Company, who were unconcerned enough to think of going to Bed. They conſulted together whether it would be moſt prudent to truſt to the Houſes, which now ſhook from Side to Side with frequent and violent Concuſſions; or fly to the open Fields, where the calcined Stones and Cinders, tho' light indeed, yet fell in large Showers, and threatened Deſtruction. In this Diſtreſs they reſolved for the Fields, as the leſs dangerous Situation of

the

the two: A Reſolution which, while the reſt of the Company were hurried into by their Fears, my Uncle embraced upon cool and deliberate Conſideration. They went out then, having Pillows tied upon their Heads with Napkins; and this was their whole Defence againſt the Storm of Stones that fell round them. It was now Day every where elſe, but there a deeper Darkneſs prevailed than in the moſt obſcure Night; which however was in ſome Degree diſſipated by Torches and other Lights of various kinds. They thought proper to go down farther upon the Shore, to obſerve if they might ſafely put out to Sea, but they found the Waves ſtill run extremely high and boiſterous. There my Uncle having drank a Draught or two of cold Water, threw himſelf down upon a Cloth which was ſpread for him, when immediately the Flames, and a ſtrong Smell of Sulphur, which was the Forerunner of them, diſperſed the reſt of the Company, and obliged him to ariſe. He raiſed himſelf up with the Aſſiſtance of two of his Servants, and inſtantly fell down dead; ſuffocated, as I conjecture, by ſome groſs and noxious Vapor, having always had weak Lungs, and frequently ſubject to a Difficulty of breathing. As ſoon as it was light again, which was not till the third Day after this melancholy accident, his Body was found entire, and without any Marks of Violence upon it, exactly in the

the ſame Poſture that he fell, and looking more like a Man aſleep than dead. During all this Time my Mother and I who were at *Miſenum*——But as this has no Connection with your Hiſtory, ſo your Inquiry went no farther than concerning my Uncle's Death; with that therefore I will put an End to my Letter: Suffer me only to add, that I have faithfully related to you what I was either an Eye-Witneſs of myſelf, or received immediately after the Accident happened, and before there was time to vary the Truth. You will chooſe out of this Narrative ſuch Circumſtances as ſhall be moſt ſuitable to your Purpoſe: For there is a great Difference between what is proper for a Letter, and an Hiſtory; between writing to a Friend, and writing to the Publick. *Farewel.*

To CORNELIUS TACITUS *.

THE Letter which, in compliance with your Requeſt, I wrote to you concerning the Death of my Uncle, has raiſed, it ſeems, your Curioſity to know what Terrors and Dangers attended me while I continued at *Miſenum*; for there, I think, the Account in my former broke off:

* *Pliny's* Letters, book vi. lett. 20.

Tho' my ſhock'd Soul recoils, my Tongue ſhall tell.

My Uncle having left us, I purſued the Studies which prevented my going with him, till it was Time to bathe. After which I went to Supper, and from thence to Bed, where my Sleep was greatly broken and diſturbed. There had been for many Days before ſome Shocks of an Earthquake, which the leſs ſurprized us as they are extremely frequent in *Campania*; but they were ſo particularly violent that Night, that they not only ſhook every thing about us, but ſeemed indeed to threaten total Deſtruction. My Mother flew to my Chamber, where ſhe found me riſing, in order to awaken her. We went out into a ſmall Court belonging to the Houſe, which ſeparated the Sea from the Buildings. As I was at that Time but eighteen Years of Age, I know not whether I ſhould call my Behaviour in this dangerous Juncture, Courage or Raſhneſs; but I took up *Livy*, and amuſed myſelf with turning over that Author, and even making Extracts from him, as if all about me had been in full Security. While we were in this Poſture, a Friend of my Uncle's, who was juſt come from *Spain* to pay him a Viſit, joinedus, and obſerving me ſitting by my Mother with a Book in my Hand, greatly condemned her Calmneſs, at the ſame Time that he reproved me

me for my careleſs Security: Nevertheleſs I ſtill went on with my Author. Tho' it was now Morning, the Light was exceedingly faint and languid; the Buildings all around us tottered, and tho' we ſtood upon open ground, yet as the Place was narrow and confined, there was no remaining there without certain and great Danger: We therefore reſolved to quit the Town. The People followed us in the utmoſt Conſternation, and (as to a Mind diſtracted with Terror, every Suggeſtion ſeems more prudent than its own) preſſed in great Crowds about us in our Way out. Being got at a convenient Diſtance from the Houſes, we ſtood ſtill, in the Midſt of a moſt dangerous and dreadful Scene. The Chariots which we had ordered to be drawn out, were ſo agitated backwards and forwards, tho' upon the moſt level Gronnd, that we could not keep them ſteady, even by ſupporting them with large Stones. The Sea ſeemed to roll back upon itſelf, and to be driven from its Banks by the convulſive Motion of the Earth; it is certain at leaſt the Shore was conſiderably enlarged, and ſeveral Sea-Animals were left upon it. On the other Side, a black and dreadful Cloud burſting with an igneous ſerpentine Vapour, darted out a long Train of Fire, reſembling Flaſhes of Lightening, but much larger. Upon this our *Spaniſh* Friend, whom I mentioned above, addreſſing himſelf to my Mother and me with greater

Warmth and Earneſtneſs: *If your Brother and your Uncle*, ſaid he, *is ſafe, he certainly wiſhes you may be ſo too; but if he periſhed, it was his Deſire, no doubt, that you might both ſurvive him: Why therefore do you delay your Eſcape a Moment?* We could never think of our own Safety, we ſaid, while we were uncertain of his. Hereupon our Friend left us, and withdrew from the Danger with the utmoſt Precipitation. Soon afterwards the Cloud ſeemed to deſcend, and cover the whole Ocean; as indeed it entirely hid the Iſland of *Caprea*, and the Promontory of *Miſenum*. My Mother ſtrongly conjured me to make my Eſcape at any rate, which as I was young, I might eaſily do; as for herſelf, ſhe ſaid, her Age and Corpulency rendered all Attempts of that ſort impoſſible; however ſhe ſhould willingly meet Death, if ſhe could have the Satisfaction of ſeeing that ſhe was not the Occaſion of mine. But I abſolutely refuſed to leave her, and taking her by the Hand, I led her on: She complied with great Reluctance, and not without many Reproaches to herſelf for retarding my Flight. The Aſhes now began to fall upon us, tho' in no great Quantity. I turned my Head, and obſerved behind us a thick Smoak, which came rolling after us like a Torrent. I propoſed while we had yet any Light, to turn out of the high Road, leſt ſhe ſhould be preſſed to death in the Dark, by the Crowd that followed us. We had ſcarce ſtepped

ped out of the Dark, when a Darkneſs overſpread us, not like that of a cloudy Night, or when there is no Moon, but of a Room when it is ſhut up, and all the Lights extinct. Nothing then was to be heard but the Shrieks of Women, the Screams of Children, and the Cries of Men; ſome calling for their Children, others for their Parents, others for their Huſbands, and only diſtinguiſhing each other by their Voices; one lamenting his own Fate, another that of his Family; ſome wiſhing to die, from the very Fear of dying, ſome lifting up their Hands to the Gods; but the greater part imagining that the laſt and eternal Night was come, which was to deſtroy both the Gods and the World together. Among theſe there were ſome who augmented the real Terrors by imaginary ones, and made the frighted Multitude falſely believe that *Miſenum* was actually in Flames. At length a glimmering Light appeared, which we imagined to be rather the Forerunner of an approaching Burſt of Flames, (as in truth it was) than the Return of Day: However, the Fire fell at a Diſtance from us: Then again we were immerſed in thick Darkneſs, and a heavy Shower of Aſhes rained upon us, which we were obliged every now and then to ſhake off, otherwiſe we ſhould have been cruſhed and buried in the Heap. I might boaſt, that during all this Scene of Horror, not a Sigh or Expreſſion of Fear eſcaped from me, had not

my Support been founded in that miſerable, tho' ſtrong Conſolation, that all Mankind were involved in the ſame Calamity, and that I imagined I was periſhing with the World itſelf. At laſt this dreadful Darkneſs was diſſipated by degrees, like a Cloud or Smoak; the real Day returned, and even the Sun appeared, tho' very faintly, and as when an Eclipſe is coming on. Every Object that preſented itſelf to our Eyes (which were exremely weakened) ſeemed changed, being covered over with white Aſhes, as with a deep Snow. We returned to *Miſenum*, where we refreſhed ourſelves as well as we could, and paſſed an anxious Night between Hope and Fear; tho' indeed with a much larger Share of the latter: For the Earthquake ſtill continued, while ſeveral enthuſiaſtick People ran up and down heightening their own and their Friends Calamities, by terrible Predictions. However, my Mother and I, notwithſtanding the Danger we had paſſed, and that which ſtill threatened us, had no Thoughts of leaving the Place, till we ſhould receive ſome Account of my Uncle.——

And now you will read this Narrative without any View of inſerting it in your Hiſtory, of which it is by no means worthy; and indeed you muſt impute it to your own Requeſt, if it ſhall appear ſcarce to deſerve even the Trouble of a Letter. *Farewel.*

F I N I S.

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FORDYCE (William) Memoirs Concerning Herculaneum, The Subterranean City, Lately Discovered at the Foot of Mount Vesuvius, Giving A Particular Account of the Most Remarkable Buildings, Statues, Paintings, Medals, and Other Curiosities found there to the present Time . . . To Which are Added An Extract From Xiphilinus's Epitome of Dion and Pliny the Younger's Two Letters, Giving An Account of the Overthrow of This City, and the Eruption of Vesuvius that Occasioned it . . ., *London: Printed For D. Wilson* . . . 1750

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